

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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O P 071045Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6398

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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S E C R E T ANKARA 7951

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR

SUBJ: TURKISH GESTURES

REF: NICOSIA 3485 (REPEATED VIA STATE 220173)(NOTAL)

1. AS DEPT AND EMBASSIES ATHENS AND NICOSIA ARE OF COURSE AWARE, TURKEY WILL BE HIGHLY RESISTANT, IN PRELIMINARY STAGES OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS, TO MAKING ANYTHING LIKE THE MULTIPLE CONCESSIONS OUTLINED IN REFTEL. IN THE CASE OF SMALL NUMBER OF CONCESSIONS THEY ARE PREPARED TO MAKE, THEIR ATTEMPT WILL BE TO MAKE THESE AS LIMITED IN SUBSTANCE AS POSSIBLE (EXCEPT PERHAPS IN THE AREA OF TROOP REDUCTIONS). BEYOND NOTING THIS AND ALSO POINTING OUT THAT GOT'S CURRENT ATTITUDES ARE NEVERTHELESS SOMEWHAT MODIFIABLE BY FURTHER U.S. PERSUASION, WE WOULD LIKE TO DEFER OFFERING COMMENTS ON USEFUL SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL FOR THE TIME BEING.

2. UNCERTAINTIES OF TURKISH POLITICAL SITUATION HAVE INCREASED OVER WEEKEND, AS HAS THE PROSPECT THAT THESE UNCERTAINTIES MAY REMAIN WITH US FOR LONGER TIME THAN WAS INITIALLY EXPECTED. WHILE PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT STILL HAS GOOD PROSPECT OF EMERGING AS NEXT PRIME MINISTER (EITHER AS LEADER OF RPP-DP COALITION OR OF A MINORITY GOVERNMENT), ODDS HAVE INCREASED THAT AN ALTERNATIVE

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PRIME MINISTER AND AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT MAY EMERGE

INSTEAD. IF THIS LATTER POSSIBILITY SHOULD EVENTUATE, IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR A NEW PRIME MINISTER'S EARLIEST ACTS TO INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS. (WHILE WE RECOGNIZE GREEK PUBLIC OPINION IS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CURRENT SITUATION, SO ALSO IS VERY STRONG TURK PUBLIC FEELING AGAINST "GIVING AWAY" GAINS OF CYPRUS "VICTORY.") ON THE OTHER HAND, ECEVIT, WHILE ALSO LIMITED BY STRONG PUBLIC SENTIMENT HERE, WOULD, BECAUSE OF HIS CURRENT HERO STATUS, BE IN SOMEWHAT STRONGER POSITION IN WEEKS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD TO CONSIDER CONCESSIONS THAN WOULD BE ANY LIKELY SUCCESSOR.

3. ASIDE FROM TURKS' OWN POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES, APPROACHING GREEK ELECTIONS COULD ALSO HAVE SOME INHIBITING EFFECT HERE. IN ORDER TO BE ABLE COMMENT USEFULLY, HOWEVER, ON EMBASSY NICOSIA'S LIST, MOST IMPORTANT MISSING ELEMENT AT MOMENT IS CLEARER PICTURE OF HOW TURKEY'S OWN GOVT UNCERTAINTIES WILL BE RESOLVED. WE WILL HOLD OUR SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE LIST THEREFORE UNTIL LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER OF NEW GOVT HERE IS MORE CLEARLY DISCERNED.

MACOMBER

NOTE BY OC/T: LIMDIS CAPTION RAISED TO EXDIS PER MR. JOHNSON, S/S-O.
10/07/74

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